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PHOENIX

AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA. Forward FD-302s reflecting interview of subject.



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California January 15, 1976

KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE CARRYING WEAPON ABOARD AIRCRAFT

On January 12, 1976, Lieutenant Airport Detail, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orange County Airport, furnished a report of an incident occurring at about 1:00 PM, January 9, 1976.

Kenneth Gordon Burnstine, 1011 Bayfront, Balboa Island, California, approached the boarding gate for Flight 882, Hughes Airwest, at Orange County Airport. This flight originates at Santa Ana, California, and proceeds to Phoenix, Arizona, arriving at 3:06 PM. Upon placing Burnstine's carry-on bag in the X-ray scanner, it was discovered to contain a handgun. When informed of the discovery of the weapon, the security officer presented the bag and Burnstine to the Hughes Airwest ticket agent, who summoned a Deputy Sheriff. time Burnstine explained this was an oversight and identified himself as a registered gun dealer and produced ATF credentials as such. Burnstine was taken to the Orange County Sheriff's Office Airport Station where the case was unlocked and a fullyloaded Walther PPK .32 caliber automatic pistol was recovered and unloaded by the deputy. At this time the deputy was not aware that Burnstine had attempted to carry the weapon aboard the aircraft and subject was allowed to board the aircraft and proceed to Phoenix with the unloaded weapon placed in the hold luggage.

Burnstine is described as follows:

Race -

White

Birth Data

February 15, 1933 (1935?)

b7C

Illinois

5: 8"

185 pounds

Brown Gray

Height Weight Eyes

Hair Complexion

Light

This document contains neither recommendations nor & conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency: it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. ENCLOSURE

In the event additional information of value is developed, your agency will

KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE CARRYING WEAPON ABOARD AIRCRAFT

Social Security Number

California Driver's

License Number

California Identification and Investigation

Number

FBI Number

Occupation

336-24-4887

N4595224

5082628 751 674 F

International Finance and Economic Development Company, Fort Lauderdale,

Florida

On January 14, 1976, Assistant U. S. Attorney Deanne Smith, Los Angeles, advised she desired to study a report prior to rendering a prosecutive opinion.

Federal Aviation Administration, was notified of the above.

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE OF OF	RIGIN DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
LOS ANGELES LOS AN	NGELES 2/24/76	1/12/76 - 2/19/76
KENNETH GORDON BURNSTING Denneth Gordon Burnsting Kenneth Bernstein, Kenny Burnstein, Ken Browning	CHARACTER OF	jr
REFERENCE: Los And 1/15/70	geles airtel to the	Bureau dated

LEAD

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: Will follow prosecutive action with Office of U. S. Attorney, Los Angeles.

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						PENDING OVER ONE YEAR YES XNO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS YES XNO
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 USA, Los Angeles
 (Attn: AUSA DEANNE H. SMITH)
- 1 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
 Division, Los Angeles

1 - Drug Enforcement Administration,
 Los Angeles

Report of:

Copy to:

2/24/76

Office: Los Angeles, California

Field Office File #:

164-1392

Bureau File #:

Title:

Date:

KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE

Character:

CRIME ABOARD AIRCRAFT - CARRYING WEAPON ABOARD AIRCRAFT

Synopsis:

On 1/9/76, subject attempted to board Hughes Air West Flight 882 at Orange County Airport, Santa Ana, California. When his carry-on luggage was placed in X-ray scanner it was discovered to contain a loaded automatic pistol. When confronted by authorities, subject explained it was an oversight and produced Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division credentials which identified him as a registered gun dealer. When the pistol was unloaded and placed in hold luggage, he was allowed to proceed on flight to Phoenix, Arizona. Criminal history from Drug Enforcement Administration, Los Angeles, California, set out. arrested 12/2/74, for conspiracy to import cocaine and marijuana from Mexico into the United States. subject was convicted and sentenced to serve seven years in custody plus three years special probation on the above Subject was released after posting \$100,000 appeal charge. bond.

-- P --

DETAILS:

This	investigation	is	predicated	upon	receipt	of
information fro				, <i>1</i>	Airport	Detail,

In the event additional information of value is developed, your agency will be advised,

Orange County Sheriff's Office, Santa Ana, California, on January 12, 1976. On January 12, 1976, Lieutenant made available a sheriff's office report made by Officer Airport Detail, which relates as follows: At about 1300 hours, on January 1, 1976, the reporting officer was the boarding officer for Hughes Air West Flight 882, Gate 5, Orange County Airport. Security 76 Agent walked passed the reporting officer at a fast gait and , at the same time, remarked "There's a gun in that bag". pointed toward Hughes Air West boarding desk where the subject was standing with the ticket agent. The reporting of ficer then went to the boarding desk where Hughes Air West Agent was talking to the subject, later identified as passenger The reporting officer overheard the two KENNETH G. BURNSTINE. talking about checking a brown case onto Flight 882. was told that the gun inside would have to be unloaded. reporting officer then advised both that they should not display the weapon in this area, and BURNSTINE was escorted by the reporting officer to the sheriff's office where the case was unlocked and the weapon cleared. The weapon was identified as a German .32 caliber, blue steel, Walther PPK automatic. The magazine appeared full, and one round was removed from the BURNSTINE was in possession of a Federal gun permit, The reporting officer then escorted BURNSTINE Number 596626. back to the boarding area. It was the opinion at the time of the reporting officer that the weapon had been declared and was It was later determined that the being checked on the flight. weapon was not declared by BURNSTINE and had been found by the security officer by means of the X-ray scanner. In the opinion of the reporting officer, an attempt to board the aircraft with the weapon was made by BURNSTINE.





FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

	L		. Date	of transcription_	1/13,	/76	
(duty on J at the Or place car boarding County Ai one of th	Santa Ana, Ca anuary 9, 19 ange County A ry-on baggage Hughes Air We rport to Phoe e briefcases machine.	alifornia, 76, as a so Airport, he e on the x- est Flight enix, Arizo	reening g observed ray bagga #882, en na. He o	hat which ward at a male a mach route for the baserved	le on Gate # indivi ine pri rom Ora a gun	5 dual or to nge in
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	was stand described through, to pass a	state range County ling near the above had mand told him case contained Deputy	screening oments earl that this ning a gun	Office, A machine w lier tried individua	Airport where the che che che che che che che che che c	Detail, e indiv ck his ttempte ening m	who yidual bags ed nachine.
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 $\frac{2}{\text{LA}}$ 164-1392

Orange County Sheriff's Office Watch Commander's Office, which is located adjacent to Gate #5. ______stated that he then returned to his regular duties. _______ stated that the individual who attempted to board the plane with a gun gave no indication during this time of being upset and made no mention to him that this sort of thing had happened to him before.



b6 b7С

1	Date of transcription $\frac{1/13/76}{}$
aware of the G. BURNSTING Sheriff's Of the Airport Deputy a briefcase this case comachine. Copened the removed a limited should be a second to the common of	Orange County Sheriff's Office, Intelligence ta Ana, California, advised that he first became e activities of an individual by the name of KENNETH E when he observed Deputy Orange County ffice, Airport Detail, escort this individual into Security Office. Stated he then joined when he learned this individual had a gun in and that this individual had attempted to pass ontaining the gun through the x-ray screening stated that in his presence, BURNSTINE case and removed a Walter PPK .32 caliber pistol, oaded clip, and ejected a live round from the
outfits and exclusively comment to sort of thi and silence	stated that BURNSTINE stated that he gun business and that he worked for three different that he dealt in the Continental United States with law enforcement. In addition, he made a the effect that he should be getting used to this ng because he was always transporting machine guns ers, etc., and that he even sometimes had to have ransport them in the cockpit.
the company stated that he was an a on this per	stated when he asked him about silencers in BURNSTINE stated that outside the United States he worked for dealt strictly in armament. BURNSTINE then produced a gun permit, stating that suthorized gun dealer. He stated that the number mit was 1-9901A-00, and also the number 59-6626 this permit.
fact that t	stated that this entire conversation and on last for only three or four minutes due to the the plane which BURNSTINE was attempting to board been boarded by the other passengers and was ready

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stated after more detailed facts were determined concerning this matter, the Phoenix Police Department, Phoenix, Arizona, was notified concerning BURNSTINE's traveling to Phoenix with a gum.

<u>1</u>	Date of transcription $\frac{2/13/76}{}$
that on Januar to Gate 5 for Phoenix, Arize ramp and beyon he noticed the with a person	Deputy Sheriff, Airport Detail, Sheriff's Office, Santa Ana, California, advised ry 9, 1976, he was the boarding officer assigned the boarding of Hughes Air West Flight 882 to ona. He stated that he was stationed near the nd the security scanning device. He stated that e security officer, walk passed him later identified as KENNETH G. BURNSTINE and ticket agent for Hughes Air West.
passing tained a pist desk where BU have to be un informe this area and There, BURNST appeared to b pistol and ej and ammunitio checked onto	deposited BURNSTINE's briefcase on the desk ck to his station at the scanning device. In informed him that BURNSTINE's case conol. stated that he approached the ticket RNSTINE was being informed that the weapon would loaded before being placed on the aircraft. d both that the gun should not be displayed in escorted BURNSTINE into the sheriff's office. The unlocked the case and ejected the clip which se fully loaded. stated that he took the ected a live round from the chamber. The gun on were replaced in the case and the case was the flight in the hold luggage. BURNSTINE was eard the plane and continue his trip.
BURNSTINE had scanner as ca by the securi	stated that at the time, he was not aware that attempted to pass the case through the X-ray arry-on luggage, and he had not been so informed ty officer.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/23/76

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Im. KENNETH GORDON BURNSTEIN was interviewed Harbor International Airport (LHIA), Phoenix, Arizona, in reference to a possible violation concerning Carrying Meanon Aboard Aircraft. Prior to interview commencing, BURNSTEIN was made aware of the identities of the interviewing agents by means or credentials and purpose of the interview.

The following descriptive information was obtained from Mr. BUNNETLIN:

California drivers

license:

N4595224

Address:

P.O. Box 35 Balboa Island,

California 92652

Race:

white

Sex:

male

Nationality:

. American

Height:

51911

Woi no:

100

Date of birth:

February 15, 1933

Also in his possession was a Certificate of Authorization, Number 1-9301A-00. This certificate was issued by Darona of Mechal, Tobacco and Firearns, and had inscribal on it the outhorisation of possession and transportation of fireams. Also inscribed on it were two other numbers, 5y-5525 and 5y-1277577. Also in his possession was a Commercial Pilot's License issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Number 33(2)(27). Other i lentification should BUNISTHIN employed by KAROL Investment Corporation out of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Concerning the incident involving possible that he was late getting to the airport at Orange County

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Airport, Orange County, California. With this he attempted to expedite entrance aboard Hughes Airwest flight 882 bound for Phoenix, Arizona. Itr. BURNSTEIN stated that because he was in a hurry he did not check his bags in, but brought them directly to the security station which has the x-ray machine in effect. Mr. BURNSTEIN related that prior to passing his baggage through the x-ray machine he brought to the attention of a security girl there that he had a gun in one of his bags which was loaded. Mr. BURNSTEIN stated at this time the security girl took necessary measures to have the gun unloaded and took the bag and had it checked in as regular baggage. Mr. BURNSTEIN stated there appeared to be no noticeable incident with this he proceeded through the x-ray machine and boarded flight 882 for Phoenix.

Mr. BURNSTEIN stated he had no direct intention of bringing the gun aboard the aircraft and that it was his intention of notifying the security guard before he went through the x-ray machine. Mr. BURNSTEIN advised that he is a responsible person and the above incident was nothing more than a carcless oversight

on his part.

On January 13, 1976, Special Agent

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division, Department of the
Treasury, 34 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, California, advised
that his agency was aware of the subject, whom he identified as
KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE, born February 15, 1933, with address
of Post Office Box 35, Balboa Island, California, and residence
1011 North Bay Front, Balboa Island, California. He holds California Driver's License Number N4595224. He stated that if the
subject held a valid gun dealer's certificate issued by the
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division, this would at no time
allow such a dealer to carry concealed weapons.

The FBI Identification Division advised that KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE is described as follows:

Sex Male Race White

Date of Birth February 15, 1933

Place of Birth Illinois

Height 5 feet 8 inches

Weight 185 pounds

Hair Gray
Eyes Brown
Complexion Light

Social Security Number 336-24-8874

BURNSTINE had a record of eight arrests on the following offenses: Assault, Stolen Property, Conspiracy Dangerous Drugs, Dangerous Drugs, Flight - Escape, Weapons Offenses, and Public Peace. His last recorded arrest was on December 2, 1974, by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Los Angeles, California. No convictions were recorded.

On February 19, 1976, Special Agent

Drug Enforcement Administration, U. S. Department of Justice,
World Trade Center Building, Los Angeles, California, advised
that KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE was well known to his department
as one of the most powerful and largest drug smugglers operating
in the United States. He stated that BURNSTINE was described as
follows:

Sex Male Race White

Date of Birth February 15, 1933
Height 5 feet 8 inches

Weight 130 pounds

Hair Gray Eyes Brown

Occupation Aircraft owner - pilot

Social Security
Account Number 336-24-8874
FBI Number 751 674 F

stated that under the subject's criminal history, in the remarks section, the following information appears:

In November 1973, the subject aircraft owner had planned to smuggle marijuana into the United States from Jamaica utilizing a previously used Naples, Florida, flight strip. In March 1974, an aircraft believed to be part of this operation crashed 20 miles south of Sebring, Florida, killing the pilot, who had previously told his wife that the subject owed him \$5,000. The cargo of this plane was comprised of 3,500 pounds of marijuana.

In June 1974, the subject was the owner of an intrastate airline operating in Florida, which was smuggling large amounts of cocaine, hashish and marijuana from South America to the United States. The subject is also believed importing military hardware into the Bahamas, and was planning to smuggle cocaine from Mexico to the United States. The subject was arrested in October 1974, in Corpus Christi, Texas, with cocaine and other drugs, \$14,000 cash, and jewelry.

The subject was last arrested by Drug Enforcement Administration Agents on December 4, 1974, at Balboa Island,

California. In March 1975, he was convicted on cocaine and marijuana charges in U. S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, and in April 1975, was given a sentence of seven years in a Federal penitentiary, with three years special probation. He was subsequently released after posting a \$100,000 appeal bond.

The subject gave additional addresses of 2101 Middle River Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Post Office Box 11045, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

On January 14, 1976, records of the Newport Beach Police Department, Intelligence Unit, Newport Beach, California, indicated that the subject was believed residing at 1011 North Bay Front, Balboa Island, California, and believed to be employed by the International Finance and Economic Development Corporation, Post Office Box 11045, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He had a local unpublished telephone number of 673-5200. He was last arrested by the Drug Enforcement Administration on December 2, 1974, and on June 9, 1975, a tax lien was filed on his residential property at Balboa Island, California, in the amount of \$879,965.

The summer 1975 edition of "Drug Enforcement", the official intelligence publication of the Drug Enforcement Administration, carried the following article concerning the subject:

Sometimes Kenneth Burnstine can be generous to a fault.

Such was the case on the night of July 12, 1974, in a hotel room at Vera Cruz, Mexico, when he literally took the shirt off his back and gave it in a gesture of friendship to one of two new partners who had just agreed to become his cocaine connection in Mexico.

The partners turned out to be two DEA special agents working undercover. Burnstine's blue, size 42 Mexican Guayabera shirt ended up as a government exhibit when Burnstine went on trial in Miami last February on charges that he had conspired with two other men to import United States.

For Burnstine—a 42-year-old, ex-Marine fighter pilot portrayed by the Florida press as a flamboyant but cool con man-his trial and subsequent prison sentence must, have been; a shattering experience.

Over a period of several years in

Profile of a Florida Drug Runner

which three maribuana-laden aircraft registered to him or his companies went down in crashes, Burnstine protested to the press that he was an innocent victim of unscrupulous pilots who were renting or stealing his planes for unlawful purposes.

"I liken it to Hertz renting a car to a bank robber," he explained in early 1974 in defense of his application to operate Florida Airways International-a charter and leasing firm -- at Fort Lauderdale's Executive Airport. -

. Once he asked a reporter on the Miami Herald:

"Do you think I am going to run a smuggling operation with planes that are registered to companies of which I am the president? What am 1, stupid?"

During the same interview Burnstine joked about how "the Feds" were on his trail. He told the reporter that he was aware his planes were on the suspect list and that their arrivals and departures were carefully monitored.

"It's sort of funny," he said. "I can just see these cats in the tower jumping around and running to the telephone every time I climb into a plane."

Despite his apparent openness, Burnstine resided within the sanctucocaine and marihuana into the ary of a \$650,000 home in Fort Lau-'derdale. Around it was a chain link fence guarded by a 130-pound lioness. On the iron gates at the entrance was the blunt warning: TRESPASSERS WILL BE EATEN.

Kenneth Burnstine's downfall began in June 1974 when he decided to expand his drug smuggling to

include the illegal importation of

He got in touch with a former associate who owned property in Mexico and asked for his cooperation in establishing a local base of operations and a cocaine connection. The associate, in cooperation with the government, put him in touch with the two undercover DEA agents.

During their meeting in the hotel at Vera Cruz, Burnstine boasted that his operation was smuggling \$50,-000 worth of marihuana a month into the United States. He said he was now in a position to purchase 80 kilos of cocaine a month.

From a series of meetings and phone calls between the two undercover agents and Burnstine or his representatives, the government was able to assemble a solid conspiracy case for prosecution.

But even at the trial, as it became evident to Burnstine that he had been "outconned," he made an effort to maintain his normally cocky appearance.

"Let's hurry up and get this trial over so I can take you out to dinner," he told pretty Karen Atkinson the assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the case.

When the jury returned its verdict Burnstine and one other defendant received seven-year sentences. A third defendant was acquitted.

Summarizing the results of the Burnstine trial, one Miami news announcer put it this way:

"Well, folks, here's a story that proves things don't always go better with Coke."

-13---- Ted Swift

On January 14, 1976, Assistant U. S. Attorney DEALNIE H. SMITH, Los Angeles, California, advised that she desired to study a report prior to rendering a prosecutive opinion in this matter.

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FD-263 (Rev. 1-7-72)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

										
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COVER PAGE



1 - USA, Los Angeles

1 - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

Division, Los Angeles

1 - Drug Enforcement Administration,

Los Angeles

Report of:

Copy to:

Office: Los Angeles, California

Date:

5/12/76

Field Office File #:

164-1392

Bureau File #:

Title:

KENNETH GORDON BURNSTINE

Character:

CRIME ABOARD AIRCRAFT - CARRYING WEAPON

ABOARD AIRCRAFT

CALIFI

Synopsis:

on 5/7/76, AUSA, Los Angeles, declined prosecution in this matter in that facts of this case do not present a proper vehicle for successful prosecution.

- C -

DETAILS:

On April 2, 1976, Assistant United States Attorney DEANNE H. SMITH, Los Angeles, California, advised that she had not yet arrived at a prosecutive decision in this matter.

On May 7, 1976, Assistant United States Attorney DEANNE H. SMITH (supra), advised that she would decline prosecution in that the facts of this case, at best, would constitute a misdemeanor and that she did not believe the elements in this matter constituted a proper vehicle for successful prosecutive action.